

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WITH MINDMAPS

HINGLISH



Practice Question-Polity

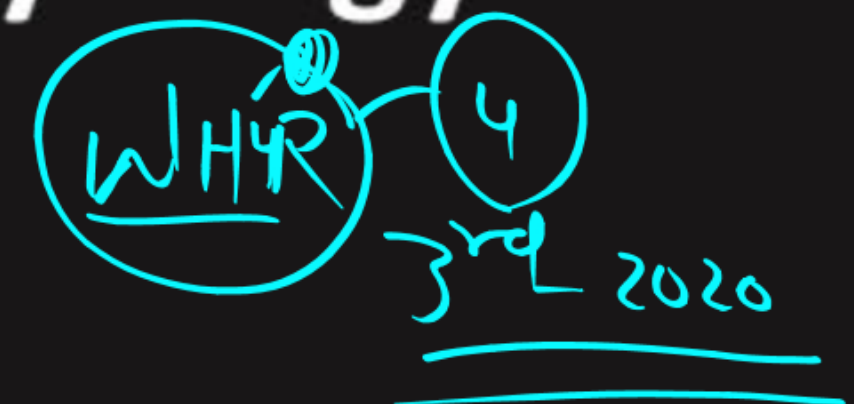
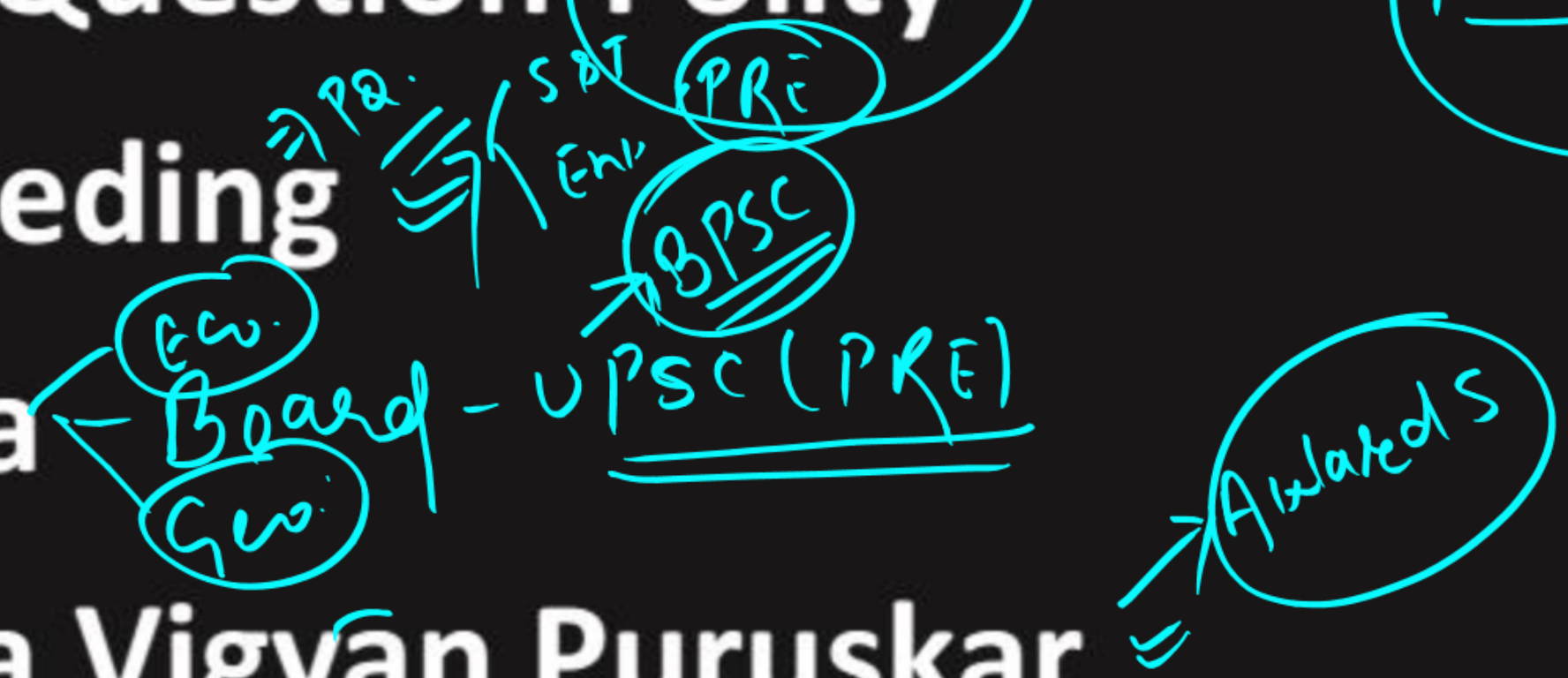
Cloud Seeding

Makhana

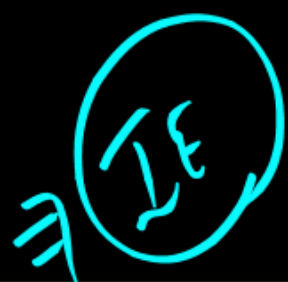
Rashtriya Vigyan Puruskar

IUCN

Haldi Board



⇒ GSS3 - Env.



Makhananomics: The politics behind govt's bid to boost Bihar's makhana industry

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY &
ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

SPEAKING AT a poll rally in Samastipur, Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday referred to the recently inaugurated National Makhana Board as a "revolution".

Bihar contributes to roughly 90% of India's makhana (foxnut) production. In recent months, members of the ruling coalition, including the PM himself, have spoken about the government's efforts to support the makhana industry.

A fitness fad...

Makhana is the dried edible seed of the prickly water lily or gorgon plant (*Euryale ferax*), a species which grows in freshwater ponds across South and East Asia. The plant is known for its violet and white flowers, and massive, round and prickly leaves — often stretching more than a metre across.

Most of the makhana grown in India comes from Bihar, where production is concentrated in the nine districts of northern and eastern Bihar — Darbhanga, Madhubani, Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj and Sitamarhi — which fall in the so-called Mithilanchal region. Of these, the first four districts mentioned contribute to 80% of Bihar's makhana production.

"Makhana crop is grown in almost 15,000 hectares in Bihar which produces nearly 10,000 tonnes of popped makhana," a 2020 paper by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research said.

While makhana has been consumed, often in ritual settings, for centuries, of late it has gained popularity as a "superfood" due to its nutritional benefits — experts say makhana is nutrient-dense and low-fat.

That's why the government has made efforts to harness its commercial potential, including through concerted marketing campaigns and the creation of stronger industrial infrastructure and linkages. The formation of

the Makhana Board is a part of this push.

...But a fledgling industry

However, Bihar has not been able to harness makhana's growing market. The largest makhana exporters in India are Punjab and Assam; the former does not even grow its own makhana.

Bihar neither has a developed food processing industry nor has the required export infrastructure.

"Thus, Bihar ends up selling all its fox nuts as raw material to FPU (food processing units) outside the state at cheap prices. These FPUs add value to the product through flavouring and packaging, and thus command better prices," a senior bureaucrat in Bihar told *The Indian Express* in February.

"Since the market in Bihar is not well-developed and organised, there is a long chain of intermediaries leading to those engaged in fox nut farming getting very low prices compared to what makhana commands in

the commercial market," the bureaucrat said.

Low productivity is another major problem. Currently, cultivating makhana is an extremely arduous and labour-heavy process, which pushes up the overall input costs.

Seeds are sown in standing water bodies, and harvesting is done manually by diving to the bottom of the water body. Subsequent processing of makhana, from cleaning and sun drying the seeds to roasting and finally "popping", is also all manual.

Moreover, farmers have been slow to adopt high-yielding varieties of fox nut seeds developed by agricultural institutes, such as Swarna Vaidehi and Sabour Makhana-1.

Creating an ecosystem

Sources in the Bihar government have said the state needs a robust food processing industry, along with strong chains of storage facilities, an efficient market, and an export infrastructure. This is where the new

Makhana Board, with an initial budget of Rs 100 crore, comes in. It is meant to "improve production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in her Budget speech in February.

JDU Working President Sanjay Jha had said in February that the state government expects to create the right ecosystem for food processing units through the Makhana Board, and a food processing institute that the government has announced.

A senior Bihar bureaucrat, however, has said that a lot will depend on how much money the governments, both the Centre and the state, are willing to spend, and how much interest they take in realising the potential of the food processing sector in Bihar.

Political significance

Nitish Kumar has been in power in Bihar for the past two decades (with a brief, less-than-a-year-long hiatus in 2014-15, when Jitan Ram Manjhi was chief minister). Over

the years, he has faced criticism for being unable to imagine Bihar's economic growth beyond roads and power supply.

Ahead of this year's state Assembly polls, the makhananomics push is a part of the ruling coalition's larger economic imagination for the state.

With some 10 lakh families in Bihar involved in the cultivation and processing of makhana, supporting the industry can benefit millions in the electorate, especially those belonging to the impoverished Mallah community.

The farming and harvesting of makhana is almost entirely done by the Mallahs. Although accounting for only 2.6% of Bihar's population, Mallahs are concentrated in the riverine belts of North Bihar, where they can command a vote share of more than 6%.

In recent years, Mallahs have been wooed by all parties in successive elections, given that they are also an assertive caste who can get other lower castes to rally behind them.

EXPLAINED
POLITICS



With reference to the “Tea Board” in India, consider the following statements:

Tea Board
Haldi Board - 2025

1. The Tea Board is a statutory body.
2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. The Tea Board's Head Office is situated in Bengaluru.
4. The Board has overseas offices at Dubai and Moscow.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4

About Makhana:

- East & South Asia (Origin)
- युरियाल फ़ैमिली \Rightarrow बीज से प्राप्ति
- विश्व में सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक व भारत
- राज्य \Rightarrow 90% - मखाना \rightarrow बिहार
- Also know as "Black Diamond"



उनादरु दशाः ३

1) ✓ ऊष्ण और उपोष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों

2) तापमान $\approx 20^{\circ}-35^{\circ}\text{C}$

3) वर्षा $\approx 100-250\text{cm}$.

4) ✓ रिकर धारदमासी जब मिकार्यो ।

मखाना बोर्ड: ३

॥

केंद्रीय धन ३ 2025-26

आवकन राशी ३ 100cr.

H. ७ ३ क्या मखाना बोर्ड
वैधानिक निकाय है?

मंत्रालय ३ MOCRI ✓

H ७ ३ पूर्णिया (बिहार)

रा० मखाना अनुसंधान केंद्र ३ (पुरभंगा)
(बिहार)



बिहार सरकार
कृषि विभाग, उद्यान निदेशालय



The central government has awarded
Geographical Indication (GI) tag to
Mithila Makhana

बिहार



Mithila Makhana is a special variety of aquatic foxnuts cultivated in the Mithila region of Bihar.
Makhana is a prestigious cultural identity of Bihar.

TOP

MAKHANA



PRODUCING

 STATES IN INDIA

Bihar ✓
Assam ✓
Meghalaya ✓
Tripura ✓
West Bengal ✓
Uttar Pradesh ✓
Rajasthan ✓
Madhya Pradesh ✓
Jammu & Kashmir ✓



Why cloud seeding is not a solution to Delhi's air pollution crisis

A&T ↓

Delhi's air remains polluted due to emissions from vehicles, construction, power plants, waste burning and agricultural fires; cloud seeding cannot create rain without clouds, provides only temporary relief at best, and diverts attention from evidence-based solutions that address the root causes

+ **Shahzad Gani**
Krishna AchutaRao

The story so far:

Delhi's plan for cloud seeding is being sold as a bold solution to air pollution. In reality, it is a textbook case of science misapplied and ethics ignored.

Why is Delhi's air fouler in winter?

Across North India, air quality is poor throughout the year, but it reaches extreme levels in the post-monsoon and winter months. After the monsoon withdraws, dry continental air masses from the northwest dominate the region. The winds weaken and the air becomes stagnant, keeping pollutants from being dispersed efficiently.

Cooler air holds less absolute water vapour and the stable, high-pressure systems that prevail during these months suppress the upward motion needed for clouds to form. The sky may look hazy, but that haze comes from trapped pollution, not from rain-bearing clouds. Rain cannot be conjured out of thin air. It needs water vapour.

For most of the highly polluted cooler months, the atmosphere is too dry and stable to support significant rainfall. Rain does occur occasionally during these months, but these brief spells are typically caused by western disturbances,

weather systems that originate in the Mediterranean region and can bring moisture from that region or interact with local systems drawing up moisture from our neighbouring seas. These events can be predicted a few days in advance, but are not a reliable or consistent source of rainfall for North India.

Does cloud seeding help?

Cloud seeding depends on natural clouds; it can't create them. And even when clouds exist, the evidence that seeding reliably increases rainfall remains weak and contested. And when it rains and reduces pollution, the respite is temporary at best. The overwhelming evidence is that pollution levels go back up within a day or two.

The air pollution problem is not just confined to Delhi. Across North India, air quality is dangerously poor year-round. Yet public debate often treats smog as a seasonal nuisance, normalising pollution and noticing it only when it becomes unbearable. Cloud seeding is just another gimmick in a series of similar unscientific ideas, like smog towers, suggesting that flashy interventions can substitute for serious, structural solutions.

What are the risks of cloud seeding?

The temptation to engineer a shortcut to fix air pollution is understandable – but it raises deeper ethical questions about how

science is used, what risks are justified, and who bears responsibility when things go wrong.

Even if the science behind cloud seeding were robust, which it is not, it still involves dispersing compounds such as silver iodide or sodium chloride into clouds to trigger condensation. Silver iodide works for cloud seeding because its crystal structure is very similar to that of ice, so it 'tricks' water droplets in the clouds into freezing onto it. These newly formed ice crystals then grow heavy and fall as rain or snow. While generally considered low risk in small doses, repeated use can accumulate in soils and water bodies. The long-term effects on agriculture, ecosystems, and human health remain poorly understood.

Beyond these environmental risks, there is the question of accountability. If cloud seeding coincides with intense rainfall that leads to flooding, causing damage to infrastructure, crops, and livelihoods, or loss of life, who will be responsible? Even if the rainfall and flooding are unrelated to seeding, public perception could still link the two, undermining trust in both science and governance.

What can 'fix' the air?

Science has long identified the real cause of North India's hazardous air: the lack of effective control over emissions from

vehicles, industry, construction, power plants, waste burning, and seasonal agricultural fires, compounded by unfavourable meteorology during the cooler months. The solutions are equally clear but remain largely unimplemented: cleaner transport, sustainable energy, better waste management, and urban planning that actually reduces pollution sources. Yet, instead of reinforcing these priorities, parts of the scientific ecosystem – researchers, advisors, and institutions – are lending credibility to a costly spectacle that will do little to address the sources of the crisis. By attaching their authority to the illusion of quick fixes, they risk wasting scarce public resources, undermining trust, and diverting attention from systemic changes that could make a real difference.

Snake-oil solutions will not clear the air in Delhi or the rest of North India. Instead, courage is required on the ground: to reduce the sources of pollution and pursue equitable, evidence-based action. Anything less is not just misplaced science – it is an ethical failure, a diversion from the patient, unglamorous work needed to ensure clean air throughout the year.

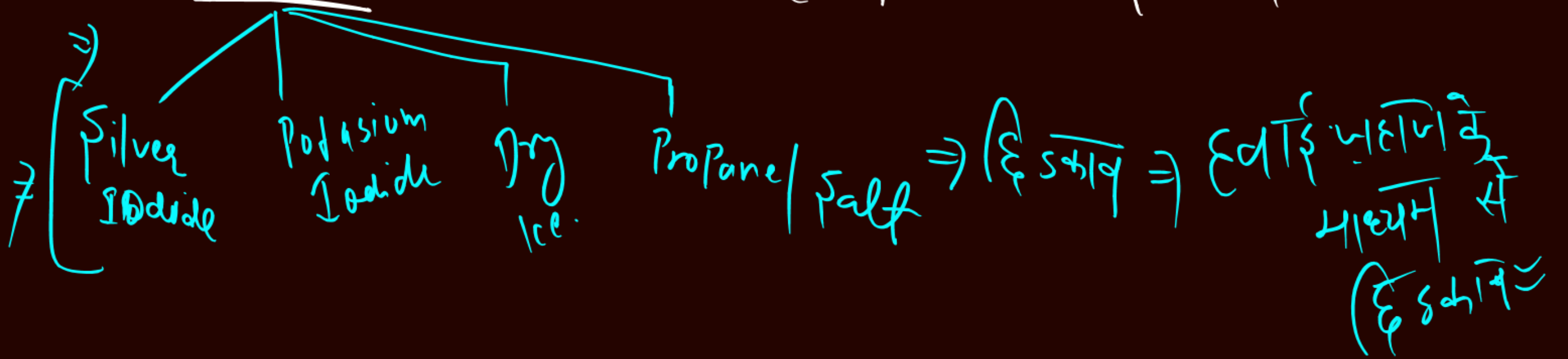
(Shahzad Gani is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi. Krishna AchutaRao is a Professor at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi)

Q: In the context of which of the following do some scientists suggest the use of cirrus cloud thinning technique and the injection of sulphate aerosol into stratosphere?

- (a) Creating artificial rains in some regions.
- (b) Reducing the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclone
- (c) Reducing the adverse effects of solar wind on the Earth
- (d) Reducing the global warming

Cloud Seeding?

यह एक मौसम संशोधन तकनीक है जिसमें विभिन्न रसायनों का उपयोग करके हल्क़ी वर्षा करवाई जाती है।



HOW CLOUD SEEDING WORKS

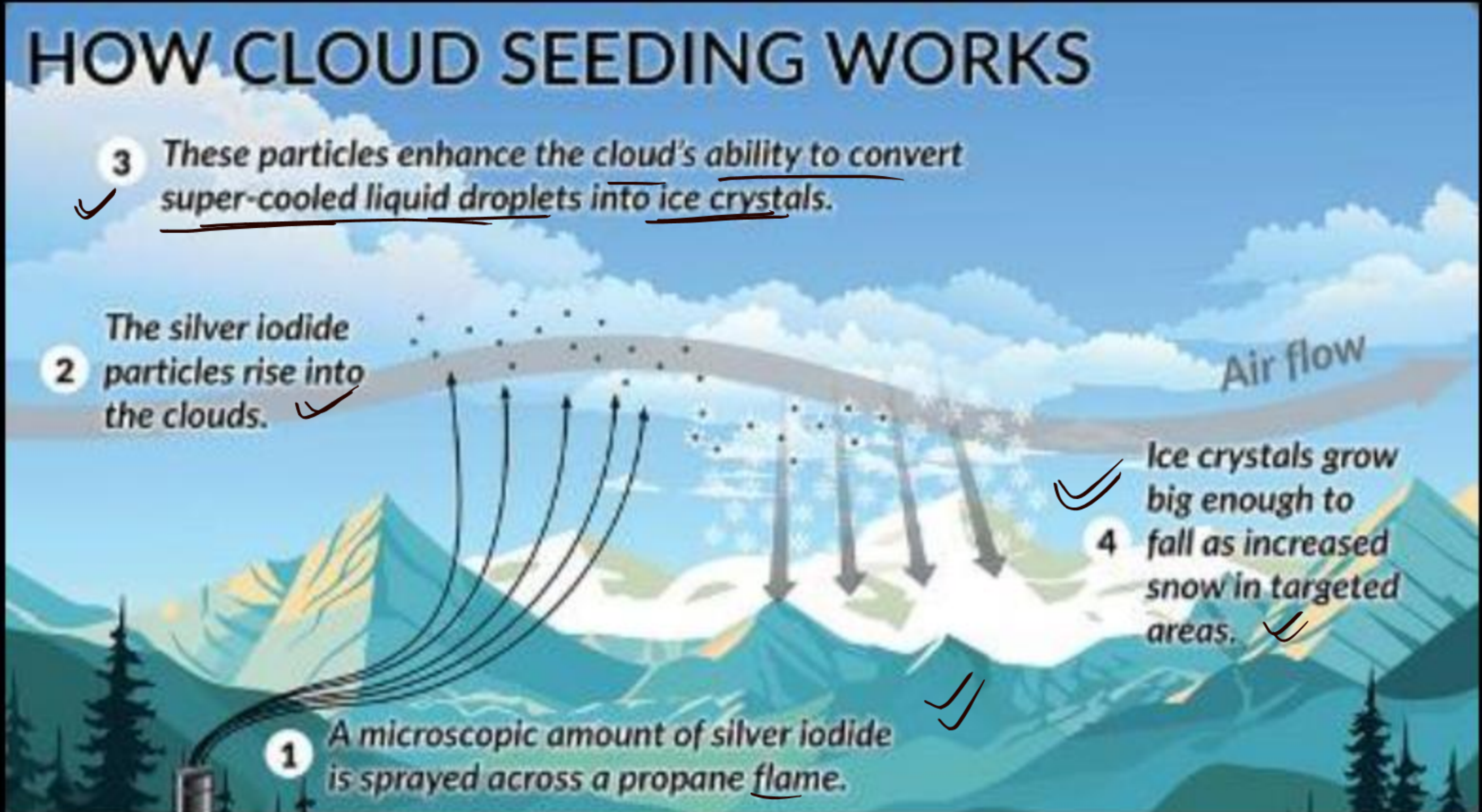
3 These particles enhance the cloud's ability to convert super-cooled liquid droplets into ice crystals.

2 The silver iodide particles rise into the clouds.

Air flow

4 Ice crystals grow big enough to fall as increased snow in targeted areas.

1 A microscopic amount of silver iodide is sprayed across a propane flame.



लाभ (Merits)

Anantam IAS के साथ सीटी के थॉर्लेडिंग के

- जल संकट निवारण: सूखा-ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों (जैसे राजस्थान, महाराष्ट्र, यूएई, चीन) में कृत्रिम वर्षा द्वारा राहत।
- कृषि लाभ: फसलों को सूखे से बचाना, सिंचाई व उत्पादन बढ़ाना।
- जल संचयन: बाँधों को भरना और भूजल पुनर्भरण में सहायता।
- वायु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण: कृत्रिम वर्षा से PM2.5 और अन्य प्रदूषकों का धूल जाना — चीन व यूएई ने स्मॉग घटाने हेतु इसका उपयोग किया।
- आपदा शमन: ओलावृष्टि कम करना, जंगल की आग पर नियंत्रण और पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में हिमपात बनाए रखना।

समस्याएँ (Issues)

- यह नए बादल उत्पन्न नहीं कर सकता; केवल मौजूदा बादलों पर निर्भर।
- वर्षा वृद्धि के प्रमाण सीमित व असंगत हैं।
- प्रदूषण नियंत्रण अस्थायी—एक-दो दिन में स्तर पुनः बढ़ जाते हैं।
- पर्यावरणीय जोखिम: बार-बार उपयोग से सिल्वर आयोडाइड मिट्टी व जल में जमा होकर विषाक्त प्रभाव डाल सकता है।
- अत्यधिक वर्षा की स्थिति में बाढ़ की संभावना।
- राज्य-राजनीतिक विवाद: एक राज्य द्वारा वर्षा-बीजन से पड़ोसी राज्य “वर्षा चोरी” का आरोप लगा सकता है।
- कानूनी ढाँचे का अभाव: इसके लिए स्पष्ट वैश्विक या राष्ट्रीय विनियमन नहीं है।

210 लिख

Important Case Studies

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय

①

कर्नाटक → प्रोजेक्ट → वर्षाधार (2017-19)

↳ बैजलुत, मलनाड क्षेत्र

लक्ष्य - जलाशयों का पुनर्भरण, मुख्य से निपलना
परिणाम - मिश्रित ⇒ वर्षा में 10-15% वृद्धि पर
निर्णायक परिणाम नहीं।

थाइलैंड → रिनोमेरिंग प्रोजेक्ट

मानसून वर्षा की वृद्धि

परिणाम - स्टीक

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर से मान्यता प्राप्त है।

Practice Question:

What is cloud seeding? How far do you agree that cloud seeding can help India to resolve its issues of air pollution and water scarcity? (10 Marks, 150 words)

प्रश्न:

"कलाउड सीडिंग क्या है? आप किस हद तक सहमत हैं कि कलाउड सीडिंग भारत में वायु प्रदूषण और जल संकट की समस्याओं को हल करने में सहायक हो सकती है?" ✓

Centre announces Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar for scientific achievements

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

The Centre announced the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) – its Padma-style national awards for scientific achievement with 24 individual awards and one team honour – on Saturday. Eminent physicist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May, was announced the recipient of the Vigyan Ratna, an award for lifetime contribution.

This year, eight scientists were selected for the Vigyan Shri awards: Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Yusuf Mohammed Shaikh, K. Thangaraj, Pradeep Thapalil, Aniruddha Balchandra Pandit, Venkata Mohan, Mahan Mj and Jayan N.

Recipients for the Vigyan Yuva awards: Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti, Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Debarka Sengupta, Deepa



Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May this year, was announced the recipient of the Vigyan Ratna. THULASI KAKKAT

Agashe, Dibyendu Das, Waliur Rahman, Arkaprava Basu, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Shweta Prem Agrawal, Suresh Kumar, Amit Kumar Agrawal, Surhud Shrikant More, Ankur Garg and Mohansankar Sivaprakasam.

The Vigyan Team award went to the CSIR Aroma Mission.

Last August, ahead of National Space Day, 2024,

the inaugural RVP ceremony was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the awards to 33 scientists. This year, the announcement had been delayed for nearly two months. Last year, there were allegations that the award selection process was not fair, and speculation that those scientists critical of government poli-

cies had been ousted at the last minute. An independent panel – the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee, steered by the Principal Scientific Adviser – decides on award recipients and makes a recommendation to the Minister of Science and Technology. It is unclear if the Minister has a veto on the recommendation.

The Vigyan Ratna aims at recognising lifetime achievements and contributions made in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Shri is awarded for distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Yuva award is for young scientists under the age of 45 years to recognise their exceptional contributions. Vigyan Team award will be given every year to a team, comprising three or more scientists, researchers or innovators.



Q. Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards: (2021)



1. Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are titles under the Article 18(1) of the Constitution of India.
2. Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.
3. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of five in a particular year.

Which of the above statements are not correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



Scientific
Achievement के
लिए

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Awards



① = विज्ञान और प्रौ. के उत्कृष्टता को मान्यता देने के लिए.

② प्रशान्ति = M O S T - No cash prize

प्रानुनकर्ता = President of India -

अनुसंधा = रा. विज्ञान पुरस्कार समिति।

कुल = 24

- मरणोपरान्त भी मिलता है।

पुरस्कार श्रेणी	पात्रता / फोकस क्षेत्र	उद्देश्य
विज्ञान रत्न ✓✓	आजीवन योगदान ✓✓	विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में आजीवन उपलब्धियों और उत्कृष्ट योगदान को मान्यता देता है।
विज्ञान श्री	✓ विज्ञान के किसी भी क्षेत्र में विशिष्ट योगदान ✓	अपने क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्टता प्रदर्शित करने वाले वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिकों के लिए।
विज्ञान युवा ✓	45 वर्ष से कम आयु के वैज्ञानिक ✓	असाधारण प्रतिभा दिखाने वाले युवा वैज्ञानिक प्रतिभाओं को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
विज्ञान टीम ✓	≥3 वैज्ञानिकों/शोधकर्ताओं का समूह ✓	सहयोगात्मक वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और नवाचार को बढ़ावा देता है। ✓

List of Awardees for Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) - 2025

Sl. No.	Award	Field Name	Name
1.	Vigyan Ratna	Physics	Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (Posthumously)
2.	Vigyan Shri	Agricultural Science ✓	Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh
3.	Vigyan Shri	Atomic Energy ✓	Dr. Yusuf Mohammad Seikh
4.	Vigyan Shri	Biological Sciences	Dr. K Thangaraj
5.	Vigyan Shri	Chemistry	Prof. Pradeep Thalappil
6.	Vigyan Shri	Engineering Sciences	Prof. Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit
7.	Vigyan Shri	Environmental Science ✓	Dr. S Venkata Mohan
8.	Vigyan Shri	Mathematics and Computer Science	Prof. Mahan Mj
9.	Vigyan Shri	Space Science and Technology ✓	Shri Jayan N
10.	Vigyan Yuva	Agricultural Science	Dr. Jagdis Gupta Kapuganti
11.	Vigyan Yuva	Agricultural Science	Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia
12.	Vigyan Yuva	Biological Sciences	Shri Debarka Sengupta

13.	Vigyan Yuva	Biological Sciences ✓	Dr. Deepa Agashe
14.	Vigyan Yuva	Chemistry ✓	Dr. Dibyendu Das
15.	Vigyan Yuva	Earth Science ✓	Dr. Waliur Rahaman
16.	Vigyan Yuva	Engineering Sciences ✓	Prof. Arkaprava Basu
17.	Vigyan Yuva	Mathematics and Computer Science	Prof. Sabyasachi Mukherjee
18.	Vigyan Yuva	Mathematics and Computer Science ✓	Prof. Shweta Prem Agrawal
19.	Vigyan Yuva	Medicine ✓	Dr. Suresh Kumar
20.	Vigyan Yuva	Physics	Prof. Amit Kumar Agarwal
21.	Vigyan Yuva	Physics ✓	Prof. Surhud Shrikant More
22.	Vigyan Yuva	Space Science and Technology ✓	Shri Ankur Garg
23.	Vigyan Yuva	Technology and Innovation ✓	Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam
24.	Vigyan Team	Agricultural Science ✓	Team- Aroma Mission CSIR ✓

Why has IUCN red-flagged the Western Ghats?

What has the International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Heritage Outlook 4 report said? What are the four main threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia? Are the Western Ghats highly endangered? What are the factors threatening the Sundarbans mangroves?

EXPLAINER

Divya Gandhi

The story so far:

The expansive Western Ghats and two national parks in India – Assam's Manas national park and West Bengal's Sundarbans national park – have been categorised as being of "significant concern" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) list of natural World Heritage sites across Asia.

Why did the IUCN state?

The IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 4 report released earlier this month attributes four threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia: climate change, tourism activities, invasive alien species, and roads. The report categorises the natural sites as "good", "good with some concerns", "significant concern", and "critical". The report uses four cycles of conservation assessments undertaken since 2014.

"Each of these categories not only shows the potential for a site to preserve its values and underlying attributes but also indicates the urgency of measures that need to be taken to improve the conservation outlook and ensure the long-term conservation of all sites," says the report. The IUCN assessment of over 200 natural and mixed World Heritage sites "offers the most in-depth analyses of threats facing natural World Heritage around the world and their protection and management status," says Gretel Aguilar, IUCN director general, in the introduction to the report.

The report points out that the percentage of sites with "a positive conservation outlook has, for the first time, decreased significantly."

Do we have 'good' protected areas?



Flourishing fauna: A flock of hornbills in the Western Ghats. N. SATHYANARAYAN

2014, some 63% of sites had a positive outlook in 2014, 2017 and 2020, however, the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4 shows that in 2025 only 57% of these sites have a positive conservation outlook."

The threats are also shapeshifting, "it is ...notable that roads and railroads are now among the top five greatest threats to natural World Heritage in Asia, while in 2020 this was not the case." The other threats include: forest fires, hunting, roadkill, waste disposal, encroachment, illegal logging etc.

Of the 32 Asian sites categorised as "good with some concerns," four happen to be in India – The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, and Nanda Devi and Valley

conservation outlook, valuing "attributes [that] are currently in good condition and likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained."

The Western Ghats, a mosaic of forests and grasslands, are older than the Himalayas and have an exceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemism, habitat to some 325 globally threatened (listed in IUCN's Red List) flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species, according to UNESCO. This includes the Nilgiri tahr, a stocky, agile goat found nowhere else in the world.

What makes the Ghats vulnerable?

The Western Ghats are highly endangered not least by hundreds of hydropower

which involves constructing dams across River Sillahalla and River Kundah, with an aim to generate 1,000 MW of power for Tamil Nadu's plains.

Moreover, tourism is creating problems of garbage, often consumed by wild animals such as elephants and exacerbating conflict. Plantations are replacing natural ecosystems. And climate change has forced fauna to adapt by redistributing themselves from fast-warming lower altitudes to higher reaches, such as in the case of the Nilgiri flycatcher and the black and orange flycatcher. Exotic species are colonising natural forests, such as eucalyptus and acacia (both originally from Australia), which were introduced here during the colonial era. As for the Sundarbans mangroves where tigers swim, salinity, heavy metal contamination, and unsustainable resource extraction threatens the ecosystem. Sea level rise and frequent storm surges reduce mangrove biodiversity, says the report.

Is there hope yet?

Outside India, seven sites in China have been proclaimed "best protected and managed protected areas," including the Badain Jaran Desert-Towers of Sand and Lake, Chengjiang Fossil Site, and Mount Huangshan.

The Natural World Heritage sites make up less than 1% of the Earth's surface, but nurture more than 20% of mapped global species richness. "This includes over 75,000 species of plants, and over 30,000 species of mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians," says the report.

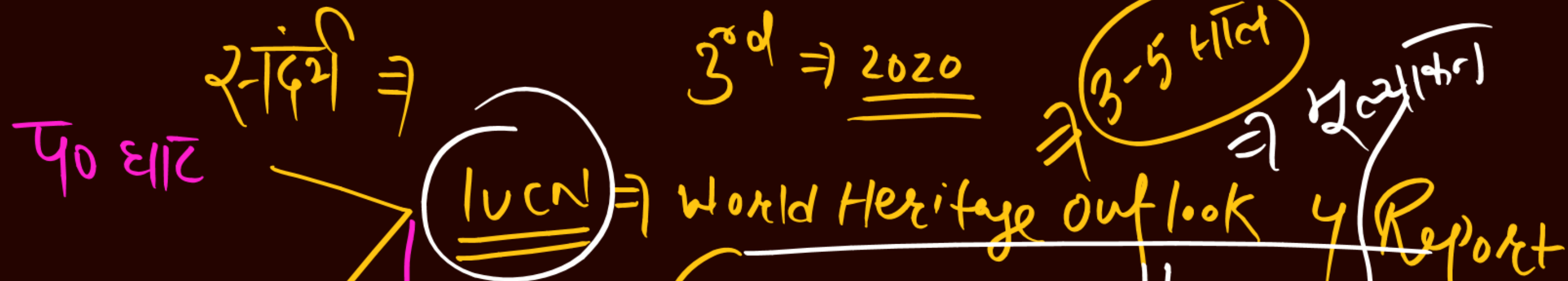
This report is timely. "The world has agreed to halt biodiversity loss through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention is uniquely placed to meet these challenges by bridging the gap between nature and culture, and protecting places with extraordinary biodiversity, functional habitats and high

THE GIST

The IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 4 report released earlier this month attributes four threats to the loss of habitats and species in South Asia: climate change, tourism activities, invasive alien species, and roads.

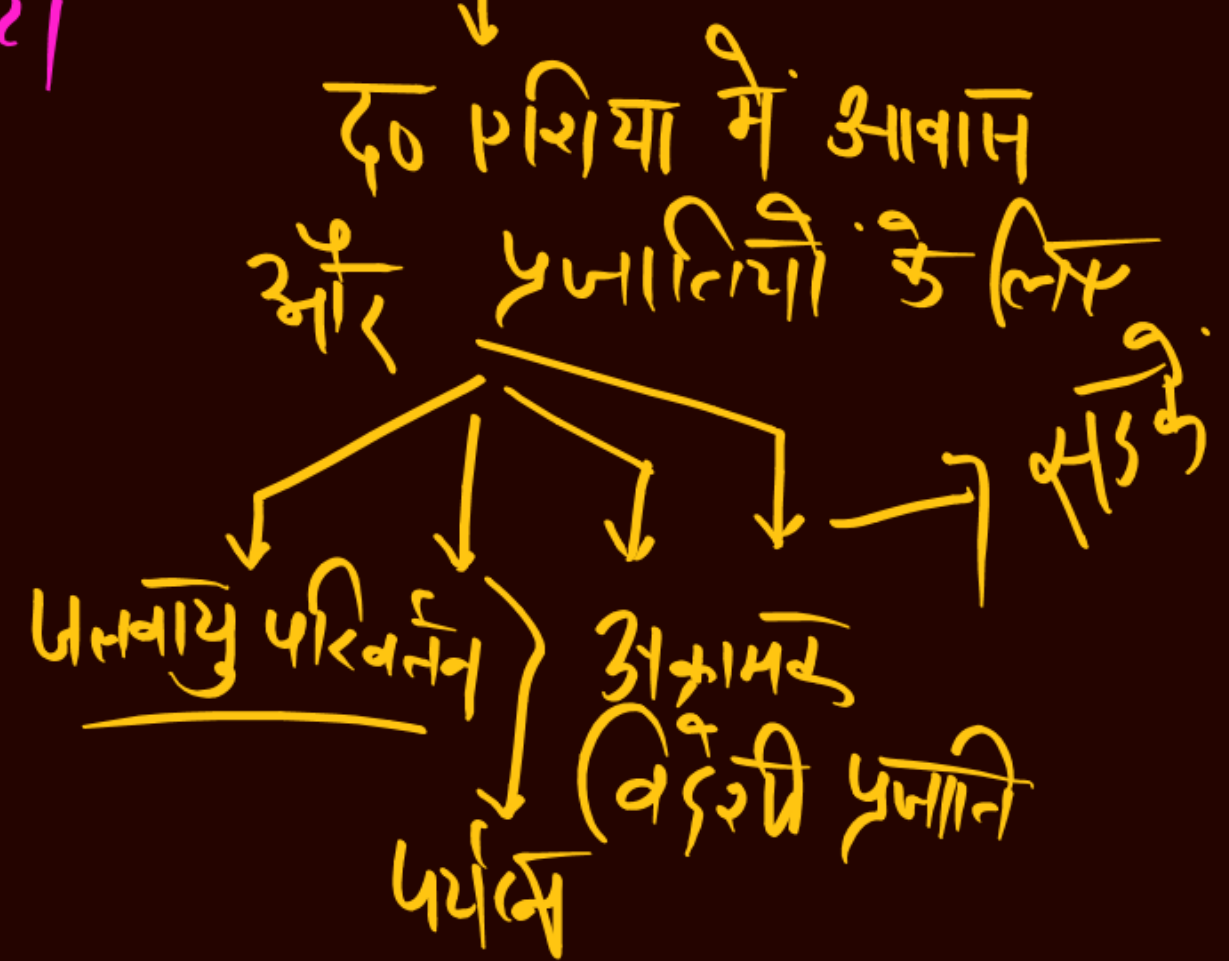
The Western Ghats are highly endangered not least by hundreds of hydropower projects.

The Natural World Heritage sites make up less than 1% of the Earth's surface, but nurture more than 20% of mapped global species richness.

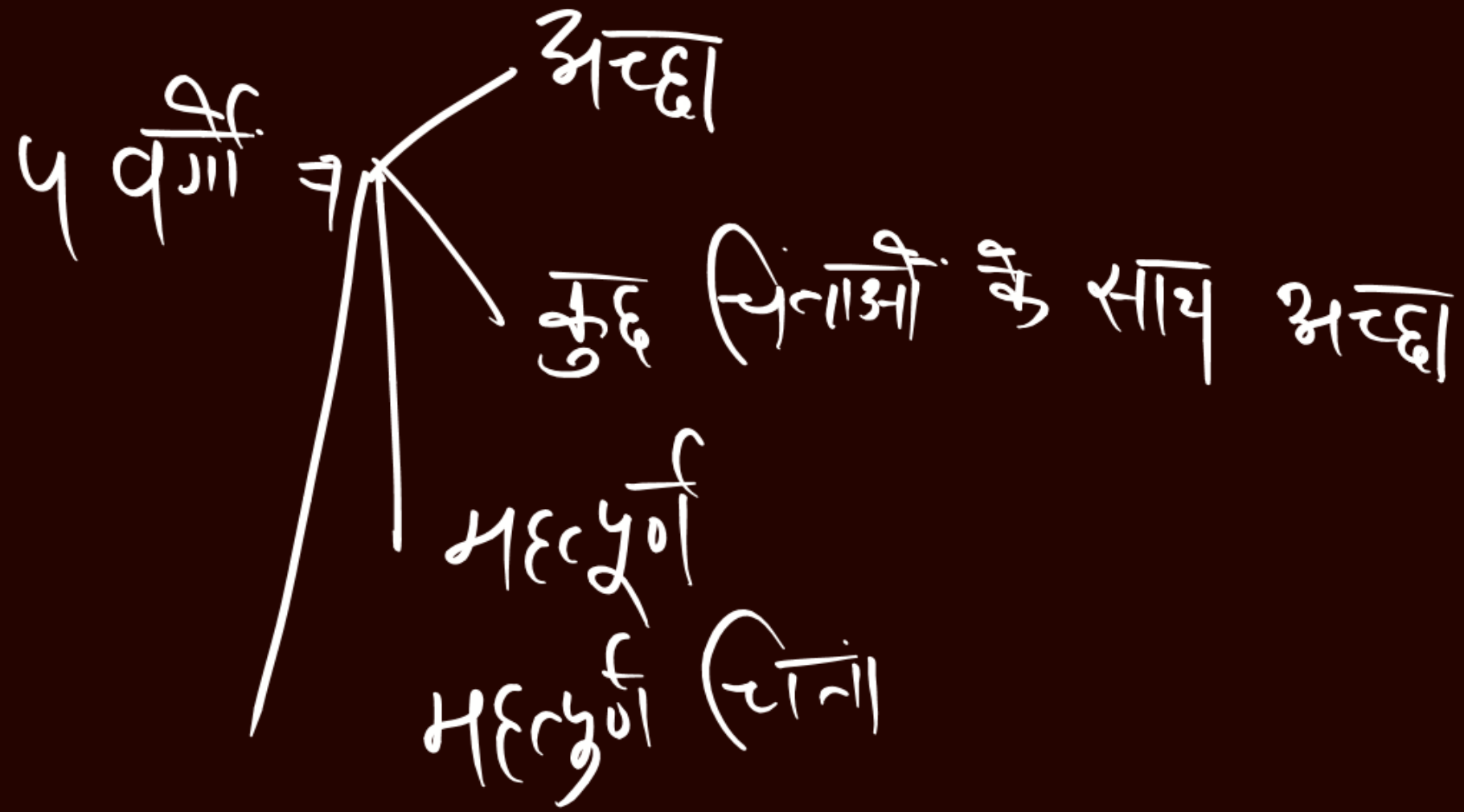


सुंदरवन
उम्मा

पिंताजनक
स्थिती



- सरक्षण ⇒ प्राकृतिक वैश्विक धरोहर
- उसकी वर्तमान स्थिती बताने और मजिद्वरने समाना नाडो की जानकारी



पश्चिमी घाट: प्रमुख चिंता का विषय

जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ	तमिलनाडु में 5,843 करोड़ रुपये की <u>सिल्लाहल्ला पंप स्टोरेज परियोजना</u> जैसी परियोजनाएँ नदी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए खतरा हैं।
पर्यटन दबाव	कूड़ा-कचरा, जिसे प्रायः वन्यजीव खा जाते हैं, मानव-पशु संघर्ष को तीव्र कर देता है।
वृक्षारोपण	वनों को चाय, कॉफी और नीलगिरी के बागानों में परिवर्तित करने से स्थानीय जैव विविधता कम हो जाती है।
जलवायु परिवर्तन	तापमान वृद्धि के कारण प्रजातियाँ अधिक ऊँचाई वाले स्थानों की ओर स्थानांतरित हो रही हैं (जैसे, नीलगिरी फ्लाईकैचर)।
आक्रामक उपजाति	औपनिवेशिक काल के दौरान लाए गए यकेलिप्टस और बबल, देशी <u>वनस्पतियों</u> को विस्थापित कर रहे हैं।

सुंदरबन: मैंग्रोव संकट

↳ GSS3-M की Issues :- 7

Salinity ↑

- ❖ लवणता घुसपैठ, भारी धातु संदूषण और अस्थिर संसाधन निष्कर्षण से खतरा।
- ❖ समुद्र-स्तर में वृद्धि और लगातार आने वाले तूफानी लहरें मैंग्रोव जैव विविधता को नष्ट कर रही हैं।
- ❖ पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र दोहरे दबाव में है - पारिस्थितिक क्षरण और जलवायु संवेदनशीलता।

आशा और अच्छे व्यवहार:

- ❖ चीन के सात स्थलों को विश्व स्तर पर "सर्वोत्तम संरक्षित" माना गया है , जो प्रभावी प्रबंधन को दर्शाता है।
- * चार भारतीय स्थलों - ग्रेट हिमालयन नेशनल पार्क, काजीरंगा, केवलादेव और नंदा देवी-फूलों की घाटी - को "कुछ चिंताओं के साथ अच्छा" दर्जा दिया गया है।
- ❖ कंचनजंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (सिक्किम) को "अच्छा" दर्जा दिया गया है और यदि वर्तमान उपाय जारी रहते हैं तो यह इस स्थिति को बरकरार रख सकता है।

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष (Speaker of the Lok Sabha) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए —

- 1.अध्यक्ष, संसद के कार्य संचालन (legislative business) को नियंत्रित करने के मामलों में अंतिम प्राधिकारी होता है। ✓
- 2.अध्यक्ष, अगले लोकसभा के प्रथम सत्र की बैठक से ठीक पहले तक पद पर बना रहता है। ✓

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों ✓
- (d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

प्रतिनिधित्व के आनुपातिक प्रणाली (Proportional Representation System) से संबंधित निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए —

1. पूरे देश को एक ही निर्वाचन क्षेत्र (constituency) बनाया जा सकता है।
2. एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से एक से अधिक प्रतिनिधि चुने जा सकते हैं।

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों ✓
- (d) न तो 1 और न ही 2



बजट के दौरान प्रस्तुत विनियोग विधेयक (Appropriation Bill) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए –

1. इसे भारत की संचित निधि (Consolidated Fund of India) से व्यय की जाने वाली राशि की पूर्ति हेतु विनियोग (appropriation) की अनुमति प्रदान करने के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाता है।

2. संविधान में कहा गया है कि – “भारत की संचित निधि से कोई भी धनराशि तब तक नहीं निकाली जाएगी जब तक कि उसके लिए विधि द्वारा विनियोग न किया गया हो।”

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1

(b) केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2



निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कथन "वोट ऑन अकाउंट (Vote on Account)" के बारे में सही है?

(a) यह बजट सत्र के दौरान संसद में किए जाने वाले मतदान को संदर्भित करता है।

(b) यह बजट के दौरान धन विधेयक (Money Bill) पर किए जाने वाले मतदान से संबंधित है।

(c) यह केंद्र सरकार को भारत की संचित निधि (Consolidated Fund of India) से अल्पकालिक व्यय आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने हेतु अग्रिम अनुदान (Grant in Advance) प्रदान करता है।

(d) यह संचित निधि से धन की निकासी के लिए किया जाने वाला मतदान है।

लोक लेखा समिति (Public Accounts Committee) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए —

1. लोक लेखा समिति की स्थापना पहली बार 1921 में मॉन्टेग-चेम्सफोर्ड सुधारों (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms) के बाद की गई थी।
2. लोक लेखा समिति का गठन हर वर्ष (every year) किया जाता है।
3. इस समिति का कार्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि संसद द्वारा स्वीकृत धनराशि का व्यय "अनुदान की परिधि के भीतर" सरकार द्वारा किया गया है या नहीं।

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 2
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

d

Polity

Daily Targets

Thank

you

